



Zanzibar Learning 4 Life
Foundation



Heroes
Community
Academy (HCA)



We have a roof!

Due to a change in education policy, all primary schools in Zanzibar must have 7 classrooms. So Gasica, the director of Heroes Community Academy (HCA) has been busy fund-raising and building over the last 6 months. He's raised much of the money thanks to many kind individuals digging deep but there is still the fitting out cost to meet.

The corrugated tin roof was a big expense and Gasica was worrying about how to find the money when help arrived in the shape of the American NGO "The Orphaned Starfish Foundation". The organisation had already helped with the purchase of 9 computers and the Founders were on a field trip in East Africa when they took time to visit Zanzibar. *"We were tremendously impressed with HCA and the work that Gasica is doing and wanted to help,"* explains Founder and Executive Chair, Andy Stein. They immediately offered to pay for 50% of the cost of the roof if HCA could match the cost. No sooner said than done!

The development includes a much-needed staff room where teachers can meet, mark books and plan lessons. Thanks to kind donations, HCA has computer equipment but needs a room where dust and heat that corrode computers can be kept out. This will be a valuable resource for HCA and the community who participate in further education in the evenings. The remaining two rooms will be a classroom for Standard 7 and an art/craft studio.



Every donation, no matter how big or small, is much appreciated! This is what the following donations buy:

£100 buys a window
£112 buys a door
£71 buys a blackboard
£136 buys a desk
£4.50 buys a tile for a classroom floor
£34 buys a fan
£58 buys a chair for the teacher
A truck full of sand costs £54
A packet of cement costs £6



Click here to donate



www.osf.org

Founder and Executive Chair, Andy Stein and Karla Osorio, Director of Operations recently visited Zanzibar and you can see from the photos how much they enjoyed meeting some of the students and teachers at Heroes Community Academy and ZL4LF.

Former Wall Street banker Andy Stein set up the Orphaned Starfish Foundation to teach IT skills to kids in resource poor settings. They look for exceptional programmes where students don't have access to technology education and invite organisations to partner with them to develop training centres. They have kindly donated the funds for 9 new laptops for HCA and were delighted to see them in action when they visited the school.

"Those students were pure magic"
Karla Osorio, Director of Operations





"The teachers cried when Ryota left Zanzibar!"

Ryota is a fantastic example of giving back. He recently studied at Sussex University as a Rotary Scholar and couldn't wait to volunteer in a resource-poor setting. He comes from Japan where he was a primary school teacher. Gasica says that the local teachers enjoyed picking up new teaching techniques from him and report that thanks to his suggestions more students are learning to love Maths! While he was in Zanzibar, Ryota stayed with Gasica and his family and is probably the first Japanese person that people in the community have met.

How did you hear about ZL4LF? I was studying in Brighton and I heard about Zanzibar Schools Project from members of the local Rotary Club.

What did you enjoy about the experience? This is first time I've visited an African country. Zanzibaris are so kind and friendly and I settled in straight away. I enjoyed so much there. I went to beautiful beaches, played football and swapped information about our cultures. I especially love Zanzibarian food. I have great memories of playing with the children who are so joyful.



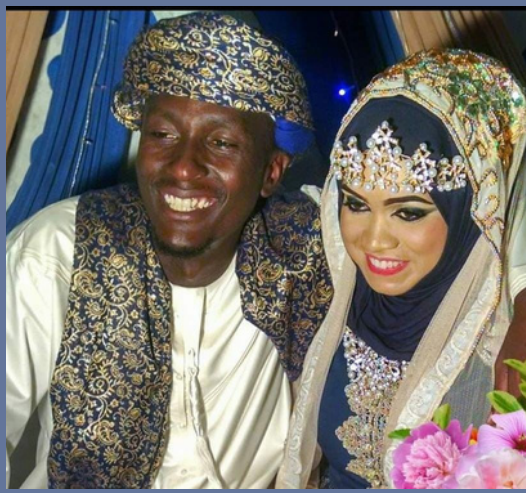


What did you enjoy least about being in Zanzibar? I can't pick out anything as it was all so enjoyable. It was very useful to discuss Maths teaching methods with the local teachers. I was happy that the teachers liked my ideas.

What did you get from the experience/how has it changed you? I'd chosen inclusive education in Zanzibar as the topic of my Master's thesis, so I had some knowledge about education on the island. But by actually visiting some of the schools in person, I was able to learn about the real concerns and difficulties faced by the teachers. Also, through discussions with students from secondary school to university ages, I was able to learn what they expect and need for their future. I hope to continue contacting with them in the future, even if only in a small way. Their positive attitude and the way they help each other within the community seemed to me to be a part of modern Japanese society that is sadly lacking, and I was able to learn a lot from them.

What would you say to other people who are considering volunteering in Zanzibar? If you're interested, don't hesitate to volunteer. You'll have an experience you never imagined you would have. I hope you'll share a lot of time with Zanzibar teachers and students, think a lot and act a lot. This will be a great asset for your future life!





Rayyan's success story

Back in 2014, Rayyan was a hard-working teenager who studied English at Zanzibar Learning 4 Life Foundation (ZL4LF) after school. The local Rotary Club in Stone Town offered to fund three students from ZL4LF to study at American high schools. Rayyan was delighted to be selected and her parents were reassured that she'd be well looked after by the host family. Rayyan says the experience was invaluable. *"In addition to giving me an excellent academic education, the experience helped me develop self-reliance, independent thinking and an insight into a very different culture to my own. I was also involved with International Rotary organization and gave presentations to Clubs in Boston and Washington DC. I developed confidence in public speaking and I loved communicating my experience of growing up in a resource-poor country to people who only had experience of life in the First World."*

Rayyan is passionate about the future of Zanzibar and wanted a career that enables her to contribute to the social, economic and health of people who live on the island. She works for Wajamama, a pioneering organisation that focuses on providing high-quality health care services for women and children and loves the different challenges she encounters every day in her work. She plays a key role in communication and consultation with Wajamama's community partners.

Rayyan is married to Gasica, the founder of ZL4LF and together they have three children, including Gasica's son who he adopted 10 years ago. Rayyan still finds time to volunteer and support Gasica in his work. There's no doubt she's a great role model for the girls studying at ZL4LF.





Karibu (welcome) to Unguja Ukuu!

If you've been to Zanzibar on holiday, you'll know that there's lots to do but it's not always easy to meet local people because we don't know Swahili and they don't speak much English. However, since 2018, friendly young people in Unguja Ukuu have offered a tour of their village, learning how to talk about their history and way of life. Their village isn't on most tourist itineraries, but it's a beautiful place with a magical thick forest and traditionally made dhows resting on the beach ready to fish when the tide is right.

Unguja Ukuu has a long history - it was a medieval port, important for connecting the island with the trade network that linked East Africa, southern Arabia, India and Southeast Asia. These days there's a small fish market, one small hotel, a mosque and an all-important football pitch! Zanzibar Schools Project is supporting a group of teenagers from the village to prepare for university - they'll be the first from their village to experience higher education. They're very loyal to their village and dream of returning to improve their community. As part of the tour, you'll see where they went to school, including the classrooms that have 20 desks to accommodate 50 or 60 students.

This Summer, Mike Lamb from Hurstpierpoint College enjoyed a tour with his family, including his children aged 6 and 10. *"The highlight of our tour at Unguja Ukuu was undoubtedly meeting the inspiring Gasica, who is the teacher and social entrepreneur behind Heroes Community Academy and Zanzibar Learning 4 Life Foundation. We loved meeting a group of students who have benefitted from English lessons and now the project is funding their further studies. What struck us was what fun it was to laugh and joke together. They enjoyed practising their English and answering our questions about life in Zanzibar and Tanzania. We loved hearing them talk with such pride about their village, their homes and families. It was clear how much they'd benefitted from the project which has helped them improve their English and as a result their opportunities in life. My son loved visiting the forest to collect and share fresh coconuts and oranges. It was a holiday highlight, fuelling his love of coconuts!"*

If you would like to arrange a tour, please contact ann.dieckmann0@gmail.com

"I'm going to be an engineer and build bridges"

Back in 2016, Zanzibar Schools Project ran an after school English language club, open to students in Unguja Ukuu. Until this time, no-one from the village had passed the primary school leaving exam and been able to attend the better schools in Stone Town. Two years later, 5 children were successful in their exams and the Department of Education allocated them to secondary schools based on their potential.

Sleiman was one of those students and he attended to a school that specialized in developing technical skills such as computing and science. He's worked so hard at school and, only five years later he's ready to go to University. Sleiman has decided to study Engineering because the subject fascinates him and it's been his passion throughout high school. His ambition is to have a successful career and help his family and younger siblings in the same way that Zanzibar Schools Project has helped him.

Like many of his friends, Sleiman thinks it's important to give back to his community. He helps others with Maths and English, his favourite subjects at school. He has younger brothers and he's always encouraging them to study hard too.

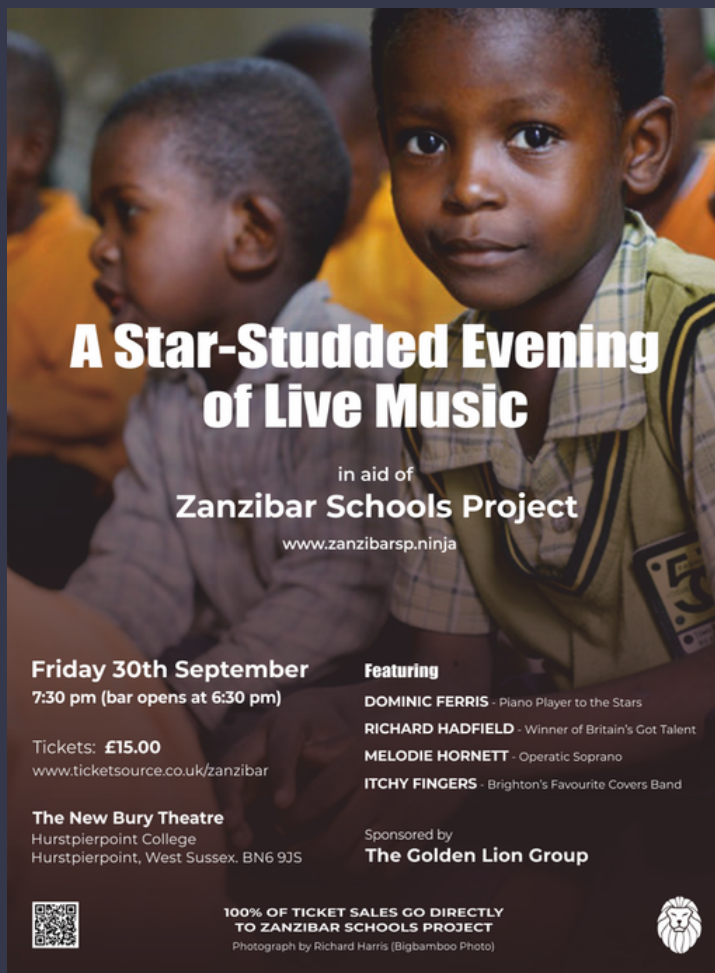
Life hasn't been easy for Sleiman. He comes from a single parent family and even when he was at primary school, he had to help out by selling fish before he could start his homework. Zanzibar Schools Project is proud to be supporting him through university and we can't wait to see the first bridge he builds! On 24 October he started his 3-year course, along with 79 other students.

You can see a recent video interview with Sleiman in the link below and if you'd like to help support children from Unguja Ukuu to go to university, please click on the link below.

www.kindlink.com/fundraising/Brighton-Beachside-Rotary-Club/zsp

www.youtube.com/watch?v=6EyBNSleU94t





Thank you Hurstpierpoint College

It really WAS a *Star-Studded Evening of Live Music* at Hurstpierpoint College! Wind and rain ruled outside, but inside the music and talent definitely were HOT! Dominic Ferris opened the event with amazing piano playing and singing. You can see why the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra collaborate with him. The accomplished soprano Melodie Hornett was a delight and she demonstrated her versatility singing alongside the danceable "Itchy Fingers" after the interval. Richard Hadfield - what amazing energy and ability to connect with the audience! He's a charismatic performer (part of a winning band in "Britain's Got Talent") and the evening showcased his range of skills from musicals to jazz.

The evening was generously hosted by Hurstpierpoint College and their technical staff did a great job with the sound and music effects. The soloists were Hurst alumni and clearly enjoyed telling a few tales of their school days in between songs. Current students also took part, helping everyone find their way around the theatre. We hope that we might see some of them volunteering in Zanzibar in the future!

The event was expertly organised by Mike Carter (Itchy Fingers) and Jackie Maine (Brighton and Hove Soiree Rotary Club). The event raised £3,310 to help students from Unguja Ukuu prepare for and attend university in Zanzibar as well as £500 for other Rotary Charities.





Could you be a hero for Mohammed or Aaliya?

Hero partners sponsor students for their academic lifetime at Heroes Community Academy. The cost of sponsorship is \$450 per year. This covers everything the student needs - tuition, books, school uniform and 9 meals a week.

Mohammed's story

Mohammed Idrisa Rajab is an intelligent and determined student, however the low income of his parents means that they've barely enough money to feed and clothe their children. Mohammed's father works tirelessly which means he has little time to spend with his family. His priority is to provide Mohammed and his siblings with good education and the prospect of a better future. Last term Mohammed's father was unable to pay the school fees. As a temporary solution, HCA agreed that he could pay us what he can afford. Supporting Mohammed and his schooling would give welcome security for the family and will ensure that Mohammed will complete his studies.

Aaliya's story

Aaliya's mother, Khadija, saw too many of her neighbour's children ending up as street children without a basic education and essential job qualifications. Feeling frustrated, Khadija works as hard as possible to save her children from such a precarious future on the street. However, with her husband's limited income the family is unable to fund their 5 children's education so her dream for Aaliya can only become reality if Aaliya can be sponsored to attend HCA.

When Aaliya's mother heard about HCA she knocked on our door and asked for help. We agreed to subsidize Aaliya, hoping that someone would help us. The HCA family wants the best for her, and we're committed to giving her the opportunity to completing her studies with your help.

How to become a Hero Partner and help a child become their best self

If you would like to find out more about sponsoring a child to attend HCA please contact the headmaster on gasica50@hotmail.com



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Would you like to be welcomed to a vibrant African community on the tropical island of Zanzibar?

3 months volunteering with Zanzibar Schools Project is a win:win experience...

You help young people improve their life chances by speaking English, playing sport, creative activities

In return you'll have an amazing experience, enjoy island life and learn more about yourself

Zanzibar Schools Project arranges training, accommodation and ideas for your free time

www.zanzibarsp.ninja



ZANZIBAR

SCHOOLS

PROJECT



WHAT DO WE DO?

According to UNICEF, 66% of children in Zanzibar experience poverty. Schools are overcrowded and teaching is poor. Since 2015 Zanzibar Schools Project has been working in partnership with local education leaders to improve life chances in 2 communities. We have achieved the following:

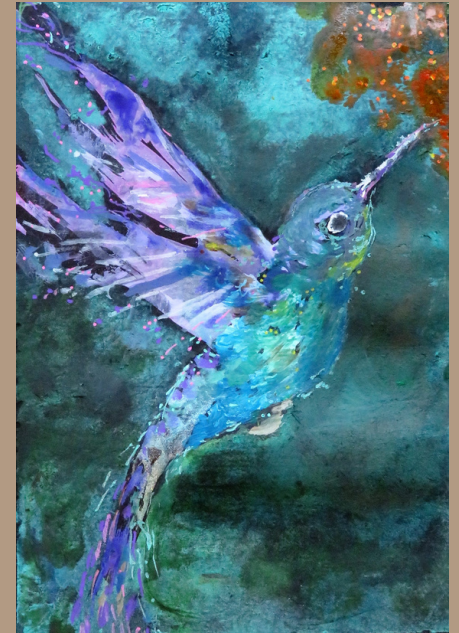
- Helped build Heroes Community Academy
- Professional development of the headmaster
- Mentoring through Safari Chat Club
- Set up a computer training unit
- Run regular "work readiness" programmes
- A cohort of young people preparing for university

HOW CAN I HELP?

- Sponsor a student at Heroes Community Academy
- Become a Safari Chat Club mentor
- Sponsor a student to attend university in Zanzibar
- Support our events. Buy our art and cards
- Volunteer to spend 3 months in Zanzibar!

www.zanzibarsp.ninja





12 cards for £10
Choose which
designs you like!



100% of sales support
Zanzibar Schools Project
Contact:
ann.dieckmannO@gmail.com

